

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 466
By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor Congressman James H. Quillen on his meritorious service to the nation and the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to our colleague, Congressman James H. Quillen of Kingsport, who has served the good people of the First Congressional District with the utmost in probity, industry and integrity for the past thirty-four years; and

WHEREAS, first elected to represent Northeast Tennessee in the 88th Congress in 1963, Jimmy Quillen has the longest consecutive service of any congressman in Tennessee's history; and

WHEREAS, his seventeen terms and thirty-four years in Congress have indeed been both eventful and productive; his record of public service should be emulated by all those who seek public office, but it is not likely that his legacy of achievement will soon be equaled; and

WHEREAS, the dean of Tennessee's Congressional delegation, Jimmy Quillen serves as Chairman Emeritus of the House Rules Committee on which he has served astutely since 1965; and

WHEREAS, he also serves with acumen and dedication as vice-chairman of the Legislative and Budget Process Subcommittee, chairman of the TVA Caucus, and as a member of the Republican Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS, for ten years, Congressman Quillen was an instrumental leader in the ultimately successful initiative to establish a medical school at East Tennessee State University;

this medical school has now been named in his honor as the James H. Quillen College of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, a segment of Interstate 181 in Northeast Tennessee was also designated in his honor in appreciation of his selfless and unremitting service to his constituents; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his peerless service to the people of Northeast Tennessee, the James H. and Cecile C. Quillen Center for Rehabilitative Medicine in Johnson City was dedicated in 1991; in 1994, Holston Valley Hospital and Medical Center in Kingsport named its new cardiac wing in honor of the congressman as the James H. Quillen Regional Heart Center; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Congressman Quillen was named "Tennessee Statesman of the Year", an honor most befitting and descriptive of this estimable public servant and accomplished politician; and

WHEREAS, although he has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in Congress, Mr. Quillen has neither sought nor cultivated a national reputation; instead he has concentrated on being "the people's congressman", and this he has done well, as he is universally admired and respected by his colleagues and constituents; and

WHEREAS, his stellar tenure in the U.S. Congress has earned him numerous honors and accolades for his sagaciously proficient service, even a brief list of which is inspiring: Outstanding Service Award by Southeastern Hospital Conference, 1990; AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, SAR Award, National Rifle Association; Rating of 100 by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Watchdog of the Treasury, Inc., 27 consecutive Golden Bulldog Awards; Sound Dollar Award, the 1990 Eagle of Freedom Award and the American Farm Bureau Federation Golden Plow Award, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars; citations and awards; Distinguished Service Award, Americans for Constitutional Action; National Bicentennial Medal; Guardian of Small Business Award; National Security Leadership Award;

Silver Helmet Award 1993; Christian Citizenship Award, 1993; and The Pride of Tennessee Award, 1993; and

WHEREAS, in appreciation of his many good works to benefit East Tennessee State University, Congressman Quillen was honored with the George L. Carter Award in 1993; he holds honorary membership in the ETSU Foundation and is a valued member of the President's Trust; and

WHEREAS, he has also been an influential and respected leader in the Republican Party, having served as either a delegate or parliamentarian to every Republican National Convention since 1956; and

WHEREAS, prior to his exemplary tenure in Congress, Jimmy Quillen was an outstanding member of this General Assembly, serving in the House of Representatives for eight years between 1954-1962; and

WHEREAS, while a member of the state legislature, he served with distinction as Minority Leader in 1959-60 and was a valuable member of the Legislative Council, where he sought to make the General Assembly a better and more independent branch of government; and

WHEREAS, he was also twice the Republican nominee for Speaker of the House; and

WHEREAS, moving to Kingsport at a very early age, Congressman Quillen graduated from Dobyns-Bennett High School, and subsequently started his own weekly newspaper in Kingsport at the age of 19; and

WHEREAS, after three years of operation, he sold the newspaper and started another in Johnson City, which he converted to a daily in 1940; and

WHEREAS, at one time, he held the distinction of being the youngest newspaper publisher in the nation; and

WHEREAS, he bravely served his country during World War II, entering the U.S. Navy at the rank of Ensign; and

WHEREAS, after a tour of duty at the Naval Air Station in Brunswick, Maine, he was assigned to the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Antietam; he was discharged as a full Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, after the war, he entered the real estate, construction and insurance businesses; and

WHEREAS, he married Cecile Cox in 1952, and he graciously credits his wife with being a major influence in his stellar career in public service; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Quillen holds a Doctor of Laws degree from Milligan College, an honorary Doctor of Letters from King College in Bristol and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Tusculum College; and

WHEREAS, Governor Don Sundquist has said of him: "Congressman Quillen has touched the lives of thousands of Tennesseans over the past 34 years with his compassion, kindness and diligence" ; and

WHEREAS, Senator Fred Thompson said that Congressman Quillen has had "one of the most enduring and productive careers" of any of Tennessee's congressional representatives. "He has always placed the interests and well-being of his constituents first"; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bill Frist has called Mr. Quillen "a true statesman" and said "the people of Tennessee should be proud of his many years of service"; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Quillen has recently announced that he will not seek re-election for his 18th term in the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, because he has contributed in a meaningful way to the improvement of the democratic process, and because he has served Tennessee for so long and so faithfully, it is right and proper that we should recognize the purposeful and productive career of this humble public servant; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Congress, we hereby honor and commend

Congressman James H. "Jimmy" Quillen for his meritorious service to the people of Tennessee, and salute a brilliant legislative career that has shone as a beacon of continuity and compassion for his constituents and indeed for all Tennesseans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend our best wishes for much continued happiness and success during his much deserved retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.